

As an employee of a large computer company for over 22 years (Hewlett-Packard), as an internet consultant for over five years (convincing families and businesses to make more and more of their purchases over the internet), and as a licensed amateur radio operator for over 34 years I have been watching and studying with interest the developments on BPL - Broadband over Power Lines. I have spent a majority of my time studying three resources: the ARRL website (www.arrl.org/bpl), the summary of the upcoming NTIA study on BPL, and a slightly-less technical analysis papers posted to the CQ Magazine website (www.cq-amateur-radio.com). After careful study of these sources, I have concluded that BPL is NOT a good approach, and NOT the direction that the FCC wants to be moving. As a proponent of the internet, I would love to see every household in America wired for high-speed internet. It would help my employer to sell millions more personal computers. It would help the families I consult with to enjoy the rich graphical content of the internet sooner instead of later. But I still oppose the rollout of BPL under the current regulations and using the current technology being put forward by the proponents of BPL. Here is why: 1) It will completely cripple the amateur radio service and other public service agencies that use the 5-30 mhz frequency bands. On my HP job I drive over 50,000 miles/year in eastern Montana servicing my customers and to make those miles seem to go by faster I enjoy listening to the hf bands in my car. Some of my favorites are the New York and New Jersey fire departments that still use the 25-30 mhz 'lo-vhf' band for their dispatch centers. Now if I can hear those signals that are unintentionally skipping thousands of miles away, I believe in the near future I could be hearing the buzzing and clicking of BPL signals the same distance. Also, I have worked so many Japan amateur stations on the 21 mhz and 28 mhz frequency bands with my 3-watt transmitter that I don't even bother to collect those calls anymore. If my 3 watts into an inefficient vertical antenna planted in the back yard can travel to Japan, imagine what miles of high-above-the-ground power lines could do with a few watts on the same frequencies!! 2) The trend toward having consumers using high-speed internet in their homes has already peaked and is now being reduced by the rising trend of households disconnecting all their land-line phones and carrying a cellphone; not only as their primary means of communications, but also as their ONLY means of phone contact. With McDonalds Restaurants, Starbucks Coffee Bistros and others now setting up 'hotspots' of direct wireless access to the internet I believe the FCC should be devoting their resources to ensuring that the wireless 'tidal-wave' is rolled out in a smooth and regulated manner. Sincerely, Ronald L. Glass